

SENATOR ATKINSON'S RESIGNATION LETTER

As I rise in this body for what will be my final time, it is with great sadness, I am announcing my resignation from the State Senate and this Legislative Body. Due to mistakes I have made, I will be vacating my seat, effective ____.

Regretfully, it has been discovered that I have used campaign funds for personal use. Thus I will be taking responsibility and pleading guilty for those actions when that time comes.

I've worked hard the past 17 years to serve my community and my state. I am proud of the many accomplishments we have achieved in the state legislature in that time ... from protecting basic civil rights, improving our roads, creating jobs, making us the energy capitol and to improving our schools.

I want to thank the many genuinely committed public officials that I have been given the honor of serving with – It truly has been an honor. I would also like to thank my many loyal and committed supporters over the years.

No doubt I have let them down, they too today are hurting and I am responsible for that pain. I have let myself and my family down.

I accept full responsibility for my actions and cannot express the depth of my remorse, I am truly sorry.

In this most difficult of circumstances, I have been treated respectfully by prosecutors and investigators and I have no one to blame but myself for this situation.

I hope to have the opportunity to prove someday that this is NOT who I am, just something I did wrong. One of my friends reminded me the other day that good people can do wrong things, but can still be good people. In the coming years that is exactly what I hope to prove. I just pray that someday I will have the opportunity to contribute to my community once again in a meaningful way.

As the court's disposition isn't final yet, I will not be commenting on any of the details of this. Instead, I will be referring all questions and inquiries to my attorney Mr. Richard Wright.

In closing to my family, my friends, my colleagues who put their full trust and faith in me.. to my constituents, and supporters.. I am embarrassed, I am ashamed and I am truly, truly sorry and I pray for your forgiveness.